MICHAEL S. JOHNSON, DONNA DYMKOWSKI, PATRICIA LONG-CORREA, ANTONIO SAMUEL, VINCENT HALL, ANGELETTE WATERS, Individually, and on behalf of the Class,

Civil Action No. 1:07-CIV 8473

Plaintiffs,

-against-

NEXTEL COMMUNICATIONS, INC., a Delaware Corporation, LEEDS, MORELLI & BROWN, P.C., LENARD LEEDS, STEVEN A. MORELLI, JEFFREY K. BROWN, JAMES VAGNINI, FREDERIC DAVID OSTROVE, BRYAN MAZOLLA, SUSAN FITZGERALD, and JOHN and JANE DOES 1-10, (a fictitious designation for presently unknown Defendants),

NOTICE OF MOTION FOR APPEARANCE PRO HAC VICE OF TRACI L. VAN PELT, ESQ., MICHAEL T. McCONNELL, ESQ. AND ROBERT W. STEINMETZ, ESQ. PURSUANT TO LOCAL RULE 1.3(C)

Defendants.

-----

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE, that on November 30, 2007 at 9:00 a.m. or as soon thereafter as counsel may be heard, or on a date and time to be determined by the Court, the undersigned will move this Court on behalf of defendants Leeds, Morelli & Brown P.C., Lenard Leeds, Esq. Steven A. Morelli, Esq., and Jeffrey K. Brown, Esq., for an Order pursuant to local Rule 1.3(c) for the United States District Court for the Southern District admitting Traci L. Van Pelt, Esq., Michael T. McConnell, Esq. and Robert W. Steinmetz, Esq. *pro hac vice* in this matter.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that in support of this motion, the undersigned will rely upon the accompanying declarations.

Dated: December 14, 2007

#### RIVKIN RADLER LLP

ATTORNEYS FOR DEFENDANTS LEEDS, MORELLI & BROWN, P.C., LENARD LEEDS, ESQ., STEVEN A. MORELLI, ESQ., AND JEFFREY K. BROWN, ESQ.

BY: ~

SHARI CLAIRE LEWIS, ESQ. (SL-0527)

JANICE J. DIGENNARO, ESQ.

926 REXCORP PLAZA

UNIONDALE, NY 11556

516-357-3292 (PH)

516-357-3333 (FX)

MCCONNELL SIDERIUS FLEISCHNER HOUGHTALING & CRAIGMILE, LLC TRACI L. VAN PELT, ESQ. MICHAEL T. McCONNELL, ESQ. ROBERT W. STEINMETZ, ESQ. DENVER CORPORATE CENTER, TOWER 1 4700 S. SYRACUSE, SUITE 200 DENVER, CO 80202 (303) 458-9555

TO: ANGEL M. ROPER, ESQ. And KENNETH THYNE, ESQ. ROPER & TWARDOSKY, LLC

Attorneys for Plaintiffs, Individually and on behalf of the Class Michael S. Johnson, Donna Dymkowski, Patricia Long Correa, Antonio Samuel, Vincent Hall, Angelette Waters

77 Jefferson Place Totowa, New Jersey 07512-2614 (973) 790-4441 JOSEPH C. O'KEEFE, ESQ. LAWRENCE ROY SANDAK, ESQ. THOMAS ALOYSIUS McKINNEY, ESQ. JOSEPH C. O'KEEFE, JR., ESQ. PROSKAUER, ROSE, L.L.P.

Attorneys for Defendant, Nextel Communications, Inc. One Newark Center

18<sup>th</sup> Floor Newark, New Jersey 07102 (973) 274-3256

JASON S. FEINSTEIN STERNS & WEINROTH, P.C.

Lead Attorneys for Defendants, Bryan Mazolla, Susan Fitzgerald

Suite 1400 P.O. Box 1400 Trenton, New Jersey 08607-1298 (609) 392-2100 -and-

JASON SCOTT FEINSTEIN STEPHENS & CHARBONNEAU 1441 Route 22, Suite 204a Brewster, New York 10509 (609) 392-2100

JAMES VAGNINI, Defendant Pro Se

FREDERIC DAVID OSTROVE, Defendant Pro Se

MICHAEL S. JOHNSON, DONNA DYMKOWSKI, PATRICIA LONG-CORREA, ANTONIO SAMUEL, VINCENT HALL, ANGELETTE WATERS, Individually, and on behalf of the Class,

Civil Action No. 1:07-CIV 8473

Plaintiffs,

-against-

NEXTEL COMMUNICATIONS, INC., a Delaware Corporation, LEEDS, MORELLI & BROWN, P.C., LENARD LEEDS, STEVEN A. MORELLI, JEFFREY K. BROWN, JAMES VAGNINI, FREDERIC DAVID OSTROVE, BRYAN MAZOLLA, SUSAN FITZGERALD, and JOHN and JANE DOES 1-10, (a fictitious designation for presently unknown Defendants).

DECLARATION OF SHARI C. LEWIS, ESQ. IN SUPPORT OF MOTION FOR APPEARANCE PRO HAC VICE PURSUANT TO LOCAL RULE 1.3(C)

Defendants.

I, **SHARI CLAIRE LEWIS, ESQ.**, pursuant to 28 U.S.C.§ 1746, hereby declare the following:

----X

- 1. I am an attorney-at-law, admitted to practice in the State of New York and member of the law firm of Rivkin Radler LLP.
- 2. I am duly admitted to practice and in good standing before the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York.
- 3. This Certification is submitted in support of the Motion for Appearance *pro hac vice* filed on behalf of Traci L. Van Pelt, Esq., Michael T. McConnell, Esq. and Robert W. Steinmetz, Esq. of the law firm of McConnell, Siderius, Fleischner, Houghtaling & Craigmile, LLC, which is located at 2401 15<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 300, Denver, Colorado 80202.

- 4. Rivkin Radler LLP, 926 RexCorp Plaza, Uniondale, New York 11556, is currently local counsel of record in this matter on behalf of defendants Leeds, Morelli & Brown P.C., Lenard Leeds, Esq. Steven A. Morelli, Esq., and Jeffrey K. Brown, Esq. Pursuant to Local Rule 1.3(c), Rivkin Radler LLP agrees to continue to serve as local counsel and to comply with the requirements set forth in the Rules of Court.
- 5. As a member of the Bar of this Court, I have previously filed a Notice of Appearance asking that all future notices, Orders and pleadings be served on myself at the office of Rivkin Radler LLP, 926 RexCorp Plaza, Uniondale, New York 11556. On their admission, a request will be filed with the Court that Ms. Van Pelt, Mr. McConnell and Mr. Steinmetz also receive all future notices.
- 6. The law firm of McConnell, Siderius, Fleischner, Houghtaling & Craigmile, LLC, and in particular Traci L. Van Pelt, Esq., Michael T. McConnell, Esq. Robert W. Steinmetz, Esq. concentrate and have significant experience in defending legal malpractice actions, and have been specifically requested by defendants Leeds, Morelli & Brown P.C., Lenard Leeds, Esq. Steven A. Morelli, Esq., and Jeffrey K. Brown, Esq. to handle their representation in this matter.
- 7. This case is a purported class action. As against defendants Leeds, Morelli & Brown, P.C., Lenard Leeds, Esq., Steven Morelli, Esq. and Jeffrey K. Brown, Esq., Plaintiffs seek certification of sub-class comprised of those persons who timely requested exclusion from a class action filed against these same defendants in the State of Colorado. Ms. Van Pelt and Mr. McConnell were the counsel of record in the Colorado class action lawsuit from which the sub-class asserting claims against Leeds, Morelli & Brown, P.C. requested exclusion. That matter is captioned Foster, et al. v. Leeds, Morelli & Brown, P.C., et al., Case No. 2002CV1484, Arapahoe County District Court, State of Colorado.

- 8. The <u>Foster</u> class action case was settled pursuant to the C.R.C.P. 23.1 fairness approval process. A final order approving that settlement was entered. In that Order, the Colorado District Court released all claims asserted by 548 of the 587 claimants against Leeds, Morelli & Brown, P.C., Lenard Leeds, Esq., Steven Morelli, Esq. and Jeffrey K. Brown, Esq. The Colorado class action case was based upon the identical issues and claims as the case at bar.
- 9. Ms. Van Pelt and Messrs. McConnell and Steinmetz have just defended the trial of a lawsuit filed by two purported class members who requested timely exclusion from the Colorado class action and who are also purported members of the putative sub-class in the case at bar. That matter is captioned McNeil, et al. v. Leeds, Morelli & Brown, et al., Denver District Court, State of Colorado, Case No. 2003CV893. The McNeil matter, which was pending for 4 ½ years, was tried before a jury from October 29 November 8, 2007, and resulted in a defendants' verdict.
- 10. As a result of Ms. Van Pelt's and Messrs. McConnell's and Steinmetz's representation of Leeds, Morelli & Brown, et al. in the Colorado class action case and the case filed by two claimants who timely requested exclusion from the class action case, these lawyers have acquired substantial knowledge concerning the facts and legal issues involved in this case.
- 11. Based upon the foregoing, and the accompanying Declaration by the applicant, I respectfully request that the Court admit Traci L. Van Pelt, Esq., Michael T. McConnell, Esq. and Robert W. Steinmetz, Esq., *pro hac vice* for the purposes of appearing, participating, and representing Leeds, Morelli & Brown P.C., Lenard Leeds, Esq. Steven A. Morelli, Esq., and Jeffrey K. Brown, Esq. in this matter.

I declare, under penalties of perjury, that the foregoing is true and correct.

Dated: Uniondale, New York December 14, 2007

SHARI CLAIRE LEWIS, ESQ. (SL 0527)

2094494 v1

MICHAEL S. JOHNSON, DONNA DYMKOWSKI, PATRICIA LONG-CORREA, ANTONIO SAMUEL, VINCENT HALL, ANGELETTE WATERS, Individually, and on behalf of the Class,

Civil Action No. 1:07-CIV 8473

Plaintiffs,

-against-

NEXTEL COMMUNICATIONS, INC., a Delaware Corporation, LEEDS, MORELLI & BROWN, P.C., LENARD LEEDS, STEVEN A. MORELLI, JEFFREY K. BROWN, JAMES VAGNINI, FREDERIC DAVID OSTROVE, BRYAN MAZOLLA, SUSAN FITZGERALD, and JOHN and JANE DOES 1-10, (a fictitious designation for presently unknown Defendants).

DECLARATION OF TRACI L. VAN PELT, ESQ. IN SUPPORT OF MOTION FOR APPEARANCE PRO HAC VICE PURSUANT TO LOCAL RULE 1.3(C)

### Defendants.

I, TRACI L. VAN PELT, ESQ., pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1746, hereby declare the following:

- 1. I am an attorney-at-law admitted to practice law in the States of California and Colorado, and a member of the law firm of McConnell, Siderius, Fleischner, Houghtaling & Craigmile, LLC, which is located at the Denver Corporate Center, Tower I, 4700 S. Syracuse, Suite 200, Denver, Colorado.
- 2. I have been admitted to practice in the State of California since 1994; the State of Colorado since 1995; the United States Supreme Court since 2005; the U.S. Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals since 1994; the U.S. Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals since 1995; the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California since 1994; and the U.S. District Court for the District of Colorado since 1996. I have not been denied

admission to, nor have I been subject to formal discipline by any Court. I further certify that I am currently in good standing with these bars admissions. Copies of Certifications of good standing from both California and Colorado are annexed hereto as Exhibits "A" & "B" respectively.

- 3. This Certification is submitted in support of my application for *pro hac* vice admission before this Court.
- 4. Rivkin Radler LLP, with offices located at 926 RexCorp Plaza, Uniondale, New York 11556, is currently counsel of record in this matter, and agrees to continue to serve as local counsel on behalf of defendants Leeds, Morelli & Brown P.C., Lenard Leeds, Esq., Steven A. Morelli, Esq., and Jeffrey K. Brown, Esq. pursuant to Local Rule 1.3(c) and to comply with all Rules of Practice set forth under both the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, and the Local Civil Rules of the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York.
- 5. My Firm currently represents defendants Leeds, Morelli & Brown P.C., Lenard Leeds, Esq., Steven A. Morelli, Esq., and Jeffrey K. Brown, Esq. I have therefore developed expertise in litigating the precise issues arising from and related to this case. I have also become familiar with the policies, procedures and legal positions of defendants Leeds, Morelli & Brown P.C., Lenard Leeds, Esq., Steven A. Morelli, Esq., and Jeffrey K. Brown, Esq.
- 6. This case is a purported class action. As against defendants Leeds, Morelli & Brown, P.C., Lenard Leeds, Esq., Steven Morelli, Esq. and Jeffrey K. Brown, Esq., Plaintiffs seek certification of a sub-class comprised of those persons who timely requested exclusion from a class action filed against these same defendants in the State of

Colorado. I was counsel of record in the Colorado class action lawsuit from which the sub-class asserting claims against Leeds, Morelli & Brown, P.C. requested exclusion. That matter is captioned <u>Foster</u>, et al. v. Leeds, <u>Morelli & Brown</u>, P.C., et al., Case No. 2002CV1484, Arapahoe County District Court, State of Colorado.

- 7. The <u>Foster</u> class action case was settled pursuant to the C.R.C.P. 23.1 fairness approval process. A final order approving that settlement was entered. In that Order, the Colorado District Court released all claims asserted by 548 of the 587 claimants against Leeds, Morelli & Brown, P.C., Lenard Leeds, Esq., Steven Morelli, Esq. and Jeffrey K. Brown, Esq. The Colorado class action case was based upon the identical underlying matter as the case at bar.
- 8. I and my colleagues, Mssrs. Michael McConnell and Steinmetz, just defended a suit filed by two purported class members who requested timely exclusion from the Colorado class action and who are also purported members of the putative subclass in the case at bar. That matter is captioned McNeil, et al. v. Leeds, Morelli & Brown, et al., Denver District Court, State of Colorado, Case No. 2003CV893. The McNeil matter had been pending for 4½ years and has just been tried to a jury which resulted in a defendants' verdict.
- 9. As a result of my representation of Leeds, Morelli & Brown, et al. in the Colorado class action case (<u>Foster</u>, et al. v. <u>Leeds</u>, <u>Morelli & Brown</u>, et al.) and the case filed by two claimants who timely requested exclusion from the Colorado class action (<u>McNeil v. Leeds</u>, <u>Morelli & Brown</u>, et al.), I have acquired substantial knowledge concerning the facts and legal issues involved in this case.

- 10. My practice focuses on the defense of professional liability matters, and in that capacity I have developed an expertise in handling legal malpractice matters similar to the case at bar.
- Defendants Leeds, Morelli & Brown P.C., Lenard Leeds, Esq., Steven A. 11. Morelli, Esq., and Jeffrey K. Brown, Esq. have requested that I represent them in this action, and perform all services and functions as required under the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, and the Local Civil Rules of the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York.
- 12. I shall abide by the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, and the Local Civil Rules of the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York, including all disciplinary rules.
- I shall notify the Court immediately of any matter affecting my standing 13. with the bar of any other Court.

I declare, under penalties of perjury, that the foregoing is true and correct.

Dated: December 12, 2007

Case 1:07-cv-08473-GBD Document 16 Filed 12/18/2007 Page 12 of 29

**EXHIBIT "A"** 



### Supreme Court of California

FREDERICK K. OHLRICH

Clerk of the Court

### CERTIFICATE OF THE CLERK OF THE SUPREME COURT

#### **OF THE**

#### STATE OF CALIFORNIA

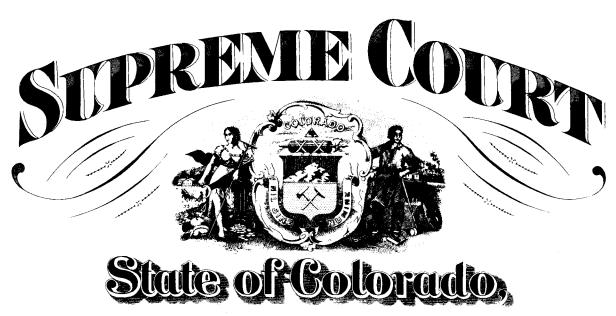
#### TRACI LYNNE VAN PELT

I, FREDERICK K. OHLRICH, Clerk of the Supreme Court of the State of California, do hereby certify that TRACI LYNNE VAN PELT was on the 8TH day of DECEMBER 1994, duly admitted to practice as an attorney and counselor at law in all the courts of this state; and that her name now appears on the Roll of Attorneys as an inactive member of the bar of this state in good standing.

> Witness my hand and the seal of the court, this 10th day of DECEMBER, 2007.

FREDERICK K. OHLRICH

Clerk of the Supreme Court



STATE OF COLORADO, ss:

I, Susan J. Festag	Clerk of the Supreme Court of the State of
Colorado, do hereby certify that	

#### TRACI L VAN PELT

has been duly licensed and admitted to practice as an

### ATTORNEY AND COUNSELOR AT LAW

	e; ana that his/he at Law in my offic		upon the Roll of Attorneys  26 <sup>th</sup>
day of <u>Decem</u>	nber	A. D. <b>1995</b>	_ and that at the date hereof
the said	TRACI L VA	AN PELT	

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto subscribed my name and affixed the Seal of said Supreme Court, at Denver, in said State, this

day of December A. D. 2007

Susan J. Festag

Clerk

MICHAEL S. JOHNSON, DONNA DYMKOWSKI, PATRICIA LONG-CORREA, ANTONIO SAMUEL, VINCENT HALL, ANGELETTE WATERS, Individually, and on behalf of the Class,

Civil Action No. 1:07-CIV 8473

Plaintiffs,

-against-

NEXTEL COMMUNICATIONS, INC., a Delaware Corporation, LEEDS, MORELLI & BROWN, P.C., LENARD LEEDS, STEVEN A. MORELLI, JEFFREY K. BROWN, JAMES VAGNINI, FREDERIC DAVID OSTROVE, BRYAN MAZOLLA, SUSAN FITZGERALD, and JOHN and JANE DOES 1-10, (a fictitious designation for presently unknown Defendants),

DECLARATION OF MICHAEL T. McCONNELL, ESQ. IN SUPPORT OF MOTION FOR APPEARANCE PRO HAC VICE PURSUANT TO LOCAL RULE 1.3(C)

Defendants.
 X

I, MICHAEL T. McCONNELL, ESQ., pursuant to 28 U.S.C.§ 1746, hereby declare the following:

- 1. I am an attorney-at-law, admitted to practice in the States of Colorado and Wyoming, and a member of the law firm of McConnell, Siderius, Fleischner, Houghtaling & Craigmile, LLC, which is located at the Denver Corporate Center, Tower I, 4700 S. Syracuse, Suite 200, Denver, Colorado.
- 2. I have been admitted to practice in the State of Colorado since 1980; the State of Wyoming since 1992; the United States Supreme Court since 1998; the U.S. District Court for the District of Colorado since 1980; and the U.S. Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals since 1980. I have not been denied admission to, nor have I been subject to formal discipline by any Court. I further certify that I am currently in good standing with

these bars admissions. Copies of Certifications of good standing from both Colorado and Wyoming are annexed hereto as Exhibits "A" & "B" respectively.

- 3. This Declaration is submitted in support of my application for *pro hac vice* admission before this Court.
- 4. Rivkin Radler LLP, with offices located at 926 RexCorp Plaza, Uniondale, New York 11556, is currently counsel of record in this matter, and agrees to continue to serve as local counsel on behalf of defendants Leeds, Morelli & Brown P.C., Lenard Leeds, Esq., Steven A. Morelli, Esq., and Jeffrey K. Brown, Esq. pursuant to Local Rule 1.3(c) and to comply with all Rules of Practice set forth under both the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, and the Local Civil Rules of the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York.
- 5. My Firm currently represents defendants Leeds, Morelli & Brown P.C., Lenard Leeds, Esq., Steven A. Morelli, Esq., and Jeffrey K. Brown, Esq. I have therefore developed expertise in litigating the precise issues arising from and related to this case. I have also become familiar with the policies, procedures and legal positions of defendants Leeds, Morelli & Brown P.C., Lenard Leeds, Esq., Steven A. Morelli, Esq., and Jeffrey K. Brown, Esq.
- 6. This case is a purported class action. As against defendants Leeds, Morelli & Brown, P.C., Lenard Leeds, Esq., Steven Morelli, Esq. and Jeffrey K. Brown, Esq., Plaintiffs seek certification of a sub-class comprised of those persons who timely requested exclusion from a class action filed against these same defendants in the State of Colorado. My colleague Ms. Van Pelt and myself were counsel of record in the Colorado class action lawsuit from which the sub-class asserting claims against Leeds, Morelli &

Brown, P.C. requested exclusion. That matter is captioned <u>Foster</u>, et al. v. Leeds, <u>Morelli</u> & <u>Brown</u>, P.C., et al., Case No. 2002CV1484, Arapahoe County District Court, State of Colorado.

- 7. The <u>Foster</u> class action case was settled pursuant to the C.R.C.P. 23.1 fairness approval process. A final order approving that settlement was entered. In that Order, the Colorado District Court released all claims asserted by 548 of the 587 claimants against Leeds, Morelli & Brown, P.C., Lenard Leeds, Esq., Steven Morelli, Esq. and Jeffrey K. Brown, Esq. The Colorado class action case was based upon the identical underlying matter as the case at bar.
- 8. I also defended a lawsuit filed by two purported class members who requested timely exclusion from the Colorado class action and who are also purported members of the putative sub-class in the case at bar. That matter is captioned McNeil, et al. v. Leeds, Morelli & Brown, et al., Denver District Court, State of Colorado, Case No. 2003CV893. The McNeil matter had been pending for 4½ years and was tried before a jury resulting in a defendants' verdict.
- 9. As a result of my representation of Leeds, Morelli & Brown, et al. in the Colorado class action case (Foster, et al. v. Leeds, Morelli & Brown, et al.) and the case filed by two claimants who timely requested exclusion from the Colorado class action (McNeil v. Leeds, Morelli & Brown, et al.), who now purport to be members of the subclass in the present matter), I have acquired substantial knowledge concerning the facts and legal issues involved in this case.

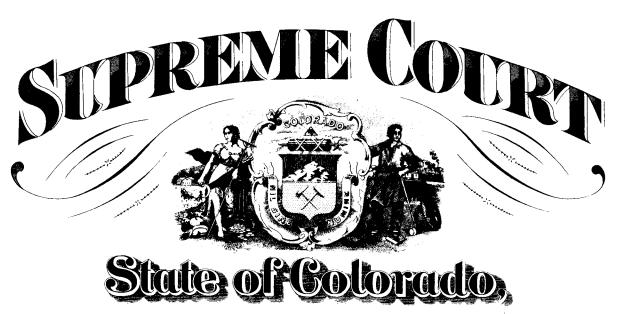
- 10. My practice focuses on the defense of professional liability matters, and in that capacity I have developed an expertise in handling legal malpractice matters similar to the case at bar.
- Defendants Leeds, Morelli & Brown P.C., Lenard Leeds, Esq., Steven A. 11. Morelli, Esq., and Jeffrey K. Brown, Esq. have requested that I represent them in this action, and perform all services and functions as required under the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, and the Local Civil Rules of the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York.
- 12. I shall abide by the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, and the Local Civil Rules of the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York, including all disciplinary rules.
- 13. I shall notify the Court immediately of any matter affecting my standing with the bar of any other Court.

I declare, under penalties of perjury, that the foregoing is true and correct.

DATED: December /2, 2007

MICHAEL T. McCONNELL, ESO.

2094522 v1



STATE OF COLORADO, ss:

I, Susan J. Festag Clerk of the Supreme Court of the State of Colorado, do hereby certify that

#### MICHAEL T MCCONNELL

has been duly licensed and admitted to practice as an

### ATTORNEY AND COUNSELOR AT $\mathcal{L}$ AW

within this State; and that	his/her name appears	upon the Roll of Attorneys
and Counselors at Law in	my office of date the	17 <sup>th</sup>
day of <u>October</u>	A. D. <b>1980</b>	_ and that at the date hereof
the saidMICH	HAEL T MCCONNEL	LL
is in good standing at this	Bar.	

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto subscribed my name and affixed the Seal of said Supreme Court, at Denver, in said State, this

day of December

A. D. 2007

Susan J. Festag

Clerk

# CERTIFICATE OF THE CLERK OF THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF WYOMING

I, Judy Pacheco, Clerk of the Supreme Court of the State of Wyoming, hereby certify that, according to the records of my office:

#### MICHAEL THEODORE MCCONNELL

was on the 19th day of August, 1992, duly admitted to practice as an Attorney and Counsellor at Law in all the courts of Wyoming; that the above admittee has never been disbarred or suspended; that no disciplinary proceedings are pending against this admittee; and that this admittee's name now appears on the Roll of Attorneys in this office as a member of the bar in good standing.

Given under my hand and the seal of said Court this 4th day of December, 2007.

Judy Pacheco, Clerk

Jula Muckey

by deputy

MICHAEL S. JOHNSON, DONNA DYMKOWSKI, PATRICIA LONG-CORREA, ANTONIO SAMUEL, VINCENT HALL, ANGELETTE WATERS, Individually, and on behalf of the Class,

Civil Action No. 1:07- CV-8473

Plaintiffs,

-against-

NEXTEL COMMUNICATIONS, INC., a Delaware Corporation, LEEDS, MORELLI & BROWN, P.C., LENARD LEEDS, STEVEN A. MORELLI, JEFFREY K. BROWN, JAMES VAGNINI, FREDERIC DAVID OSTROVE, BRYAN MAZOLLA, SUSAN FITZGERALD, and JOHN and JANE DOES 1-10, (a fictitious designation for presently unknown Defendants),

DECLARATION OF ROBERT W. STEINMETZ, ESQ. IN SUPPORT OF MOTION FOR APPEARANCE PRO HAC VICE PURSUANT TO LOCAL RULE 1.3(C)

Defendants.	
 	X

- I, **ROBERT W. STEINMETZ, ESQ.**, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1746 hereby declare the following:
- 1. I am an attorney-at-law, admitted to practice in the States of Wisconsin and Colorado, and an Associate with the law firm of McConnell, Siderius, Fleischner, Houghtaling & Craigmile, LLC, which is located at the Denver Corporate Center, Tower I, 4700 S. Syracuse, Suite 200, Denver, Colorado.
- 2. I have been admitted to practice in the State of Wisconsin since 2002; the State of Colorado since 2003; the U.S. District Court for the District of Colorado since 2005; and the U.S. Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals since 2005. I have not been denied admission to, nor have I been subject to formal discipline by any Court. I further certify that I am currently in good standing with these bars admissions.

- 3. This Declaration is submitted in support of my application for *pro hac vice* admission before this Court.
- 4. Rivkin Radler LLP, with offices located at 926 RexCorp Plaza, Uniondale, New York 11556, is currently counsel of record in this matter, and agrees to continue to serve as local counsel on behalf of defendants Leeds, Morelli & Brown P.C., Lenard Leeds, Esq., Steven A. Morelli, Esq., and Jeffrey K. Brown, Esq. pursuant to Local Rule 1-3(c), and to comply with all Rules of Practice set forth under both the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, and the Local Civil Rules of the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York.
- 5. My Firm currently represents defendants Leeds, Morelli & Brown P.C., Lenard Leeds, Esq., Steven A. Morelli, Esq., and Jeffrey K. Brown, Esq. I have therefore developed expertise in litigating the precise issues arising from and related to this case. I have also become familiar with the policies, procedures and legal positions of defendants Leeds, Morelli & Brown P.C., Lenard Leeds, Esq., Steven A. Morelli, Esq., and Jeffrey K. Brown, Esq.
- 6. This case is a purported class action. As against defendants Leeds, Morelli & Brown, P.C., Lenard Leeds, Esq., Steven Morelli, Esq. and Jeffrey K. Brown, Esq., Plaintiffs seek certification of sub-class comprised of those persons who timely requested exclusion from a class action filed against these same defendants in the State of Colorado. My firm was counsel of record in the Colorado class action lawsuit from which the sub-class asserting claims against Leeds, Morelli & Brown, P.C. requested exclusion. That matter is captioned Foster, et al. v. Leeds, Morelli & Brown, P.C., et al., Case No. 2002CV1484, Arapahoe County District Court, State of Colorado.

- 7. The Foster class action case was settled pursuant to the C.R.C.P. 23.1 fairness approval process. A final order approving that settlement was entered. In that Order, the Colorado District Court released all claims asserted by 548 of the 587 claimants against Leeds, Morelli & Brown, P.C., Lenard Leeds, Esq., Steven Morelli, Esq. and Jeffrey K. Brown, Esq. The Colorado class action case was based upon the identical underlying matter as the case at bar.
- 8. Subsequently, I participated in defending a lawsuit filed by two purported class members who requested timely exclusion from the Colorado class action and who are also purported members of the putative sub-class in the case at bar. That matter is captioned McNeil, et al. v. Leeds, Morelli & Brown, et al., Denver District Court, State of Colorado, Case No. 2003CV893. The McNeil matter had been pending for 4½ years and was tried before a jury resulting in a defendants' verdict. The issues in McNeil were substantially identical to those claims asserted against in this matter.
- 9. As a result of my representation of Leeds, Morelli & Brown, et al. in the Colorado class action and the case filed by two claimants who opted our of the Colorado class action (who are members of the purported sub-class in the case at bar), we have acquired substantial knowledge concerning the facts and legal issues involved in this case.
- 10. My practice focuses on general litigation, including the defense of professional liability matters. In that capacity I have developed an expertise in handling legal malpractice matters similar to the case at bar.
- 11. Defendants Leeds, Morelli & Brown P.C., Lenard Leeds, Esq., Steven A. Morelli, Esq., and Jeffrey K. Brown, Esq. have requested that I represent them in this

action, and perform all services and functions as required under the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, and the Local Civil Rules of the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York.

- 12. I shall abide by the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, and the Local Civil Rules of the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York, including all disciplinary rules.
- 13. I shall notify the Court immediately of any matter affecting my standing with the bar of any other Court.

I declare under penalties of perjury, that the foregoing is true and accurate.

Dated: December 12, 2007

By: ROBERT W. STEINMETZ, ESQ.

#### OFFICE OF THE CLERK

110 E. Main Street, Suite 215 P.O. Box 1688 Madison, WI 53701-1688

Telephone: 608-266-1880 TTY: 800-947-3529

Page 25 of 29

Fax: 608-267-0640 http://www.wicourts.gov

#### CERTIFICATE OF GOOD STANDING

I, David R. Schanker, Clerk of the Supreme Court of Wisconsin certify that the records of this office show that:

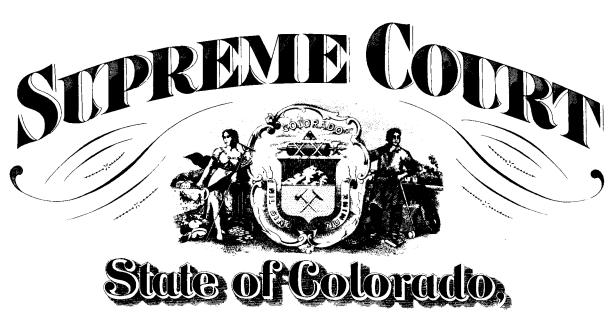
ROBERT W. STEINMETZ

was admitted to practice as an attorney within this state on December 20, 2002 and is presently in good standing in this court.

Dated: December 4, 2007

DAVID R. SCHANKER Clerk of Supreme Court

David R. Schanker Clerk



STATE OF COLORADO, ss:

I, Susan J. Festag Clerk of the Supreme Court of the State of Colorado, do hereby certify that

#### ROBERT W STEINMETZ

has been duly licensed and admitted to practice as an

# ATTORNEY AND COUNSELOR AT LAW

	at his/her name appears n my office of date the	upon the Roll of Attorneys 19 <sup>th</sup>
d <b>a</b> y of <i>May</i>	A. D. <b>2003</b>	_ and that at the date hereof
the saidROI	BERT W STEINMETZ	

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto subscribed my name and affixed the Seal of said Supreme Court, at Denver, in said State, this A. D. 2007 day of December

Susan J. Festag

Clerk

MICHAEL S. JOHNSON, DONNA DYMKOWSKI, PATRICIA LONG-CORREA, ANTONIO SAMUEL, VINCENT HALL, ANGELETTE WATERS, Individually, and on behalf of the Class,

.\_\_\_\_X

Civil Action No. 1:07-CIV 8473

Plaintiffs,

-against-

NEXTEL COMMUNICATIONS, INC., a Delaware Corporation, LEEDS, MORELLI & BROWN, P.C., LENARD LEEDS, STEVEN A. MORELLI, JEFFREY K. BROWN, JAMES VAGNINI, FREDERIC DAVID OSTROVE, BRYAN MAZOLLA, SUSAN FITZGERALD, and JOHN and JANE DOES 1-10, (a fictitious designation for presently unknown Defendants),

	Defendants.
	AFFIDAVIT OF SERVICE
STATE OF NEW YORK	) ) SS. :
COUNTY OF NASSAU	)

I, MEAGAN SANDERS, being sworn, say:

I am not a party to the action, am over 18 years of age and reside in Nassau County, New York.

On December 14, 2007, I served the within NOTICE OF MOTION FOR APPEARANCE PRO HAC VICE OF TRACI L. VAN PELT, ESQ., MICHAEL T. McCONNELL, ESQ. AND ROBERT W. STEINMETZ, ESQ., PURSUANT TO LOCAL RULE 1.3(C), DECLARATION OF SHARI C. LEWIS, ESQ. IN SUPPORT OF MOTION FOR APPEARANCE PRO HAC VICE, DECLARATION OF TRACI L. VAN PELT, ESQ., IN SUPPORT OF MOTION FOR APPEARANCE PRO HAC VICE, DECLARATION OF MICHAEL T. McCONNELL, ESQ. IN SUPPORT OF MOTION FOR APPEARANCE PRO HAC VICE AND DECLARATION OF ROBERT W. STEINMETZ, ESQ. IN SUPPORT OF MOTION FOR APPEARANCE PRO HAC VICE PURSUANT TO LOCAL RULE 1.3(C) by depositing a true copy thereof enclosed in a post-paid wrapper, in an official depository under the exclusive care and custody of the U.S.

Postal Service within New York State, addressed to each of the following persons at the last known address set forth after each name:

TO: ANGEL M. ROPER, ESQ. And

KENNETH THYNE, ESQ.

ROPER & TWARDOSKY, LLC

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JOHN J. ROBERTELLI, ESQ. RIVKIN RADLER, LLP 21 Main Street  $Court\ Plaza\ South-West\ Wing$ Hackensack, New Jersey 07601-7021

Sworn to before me this 14<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2007

Notary Public

**PATRICIA KIPNES** Notary Public, State of New York No. 01KI5049568 Qualified in Nassau County Commission Expires Sept. 17, 2005